

REFERENCE TITLE: Native American education

State of Arizona
House of Representatives
Forty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2006

HCM 2008

Introduced by
Representatives Lujan, Sinema: Tom

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR GREATER NATIVE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, according to the United States Department of the Interior,
4 Bureau of Indian Affairs, the high school graduation rate for Native American
5 students is only 57.05%; and

6 Whereas, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the high school
7 dropout rate for Native American students is 11.31%; and

8 Whereas, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the proficiency
9 rate for Native American students in language arts is 43.84%; and

10 Whereas, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the proficiency
11 rate for Native American students in reading is 35.19%; and

12 Whereas, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the proficiency
13 rate for Native American students in math is 30.74%; and

14 Whereas, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, fifty-three out of
15 sixty-eight schools on the Navajo, Hopi, Pima and Papago reservations failed
16 to meet the adequate yearly progress; and

17 Whereas, according to the Bureau of the Census, counties with a large
18 Native American population have a poverty level significantly higher than the
19 average county in Arizona; and

20 Whereas, Native American students are entitled to the same level of
21 education as all citizens of the United States; and

22 Whereas, education is proven to be the most effective means to improve
23 economic opportunity; and

24 Whereas, Native American students attending schools in urban areas are
25 not being adequately prepared to graduate from high school, to attend college
26 and to enter the workforce; and

27 Whereas, there is a tremendous need for alliances between school
28 districts, parent groups, nonprofit organizations and cities, towns and other
29 governmental entities to address the cultural and socioeconomic differences
30 that exist for Native Americans attending schools in urban areas; and

31 Whereas, such alliances will teach Native American students attending
32 schools in urban areas the importance of cultural involvement, family
33 strength, community involvement, personal responsibility and political
34 participation and will result in a strong, educated workforce; and

35 Whereas, as the original inhabitants of the United States, Native
36 Americans are more than deserving of education so they may be empowered to
37 live with dignity in pursuit of their goals.

38 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
39 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

40 1. That the Congress of the United States improve the resources made
41 available to educate Native American students attending schools in urban
42 areas, including creating programs that will promote alliances between
43 interested groups designed to result in an educated Native American
44 workforce.

1 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
2 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
3 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from
4 the State of Arizona.